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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,938	04/06/2001	Atsushi Mizuno	862.C2193	3608

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EXAMINER	
ZHEN, LI B	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2194	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/826,938	MIZUNO, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Li B. Zhen	2194	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 November 2005 and 19 October 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7,9,10 and 12-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7,9,10 and 12-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. 1 – 7, 9, 10 and 12 – 19 are pending in the current application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1 – 7, 9, 10 and 12 – 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640 to Motegi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 to Taniguchi et al. [hereinafter Taniguchi] further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 to Wiegley [cited in PTO Form 892 dated 01/26/2005, all references cited in the previous office action].**

4. As to claim 1, Motegi teaches a job processing system [computer-based network using a computer-based network print system; col. 2, lines 35 – 39] comprising first [host computer 113, Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 33 – 48] and second information processors [computers (101-102, and 103-104); col. 2, lines 33 – 48], and an output device [printer pairs (107-108, and 109-110) respectively connected to print servers 111 and 112; col. 2, lines 49 – 56], wherein said first information processor comprises:

job issuing unit adapted to transfer to said output device job data including print data [image data] and attribute information [job number, password] which is used to start outputting the print data [As part of step S2, the host computer sends the job number, password and the image data to the print server; col. 3, lines 38 – 57]; and

wherein said second information processor comprises:

a unit adapted to send attribute information notified to the second information processor by the first information processor to said output device [the user need not be physically present, but send control commands to the selected printer 107,

identifying the password and job number, as if the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad; col. 3, lines 28 – 39], and

said output device comprises:

a storage unit adapted to store received job data which includes print data and attribute information [print server 111 receives data for example, a user password, a job number and an image data, from the host computer 113; col. 3, lines 15 – 19]; and

a control unit adapted to output print data stored in said storage unit if the attribute information send to said output device by said sending unit of the second information processor corresponds to the attribute information stored in said storage unit [step S5 verifies that the inputted job number and password match that provided by the host computer....If the response to the inquiry in step S5 is affirmative, the process proceeds to step S6, where the selected printer prints the image data; col. 4, lines 1 – 22].

5. Motegi teaches that a user need not be physically present, but send control commands to the selected printer 107, identifying the password and job number, as if the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad [col. 3, lines 28 – 39]. This clearly suggests that the user is notified of the password and job number, but Motegi does not provide further details as to the notifying means.

However, Taniguchi teaches a job processing system [network print system, Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 1 – 8], a first information processor transferring to the output device job data including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the print data [user 1 enters the respective IDs and a common password of the users 2 and 3 from the input device such as a keyboard or so of the computer C1, and adds them to "Job Ownership" and "Password" of the print job management data of the print job J1; col. 8, lines 37 – 52], notifying the second information processor [computers C2 and C3; col. 8, lines 64 – 67] of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device [print job management program informs that the ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3...This notification may be made by another method such as e-mail; col. 8, lines 57 – 67], a second information processor designating execution designation information including the

attribute information to the output device [col. 9, lines 1 – 19], and the output device outputting print data if the attribute information of the execution designation information corresponds to the attribute information [col. 9, lines 20 – 35].

6. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to apply the teaching of the teaching of notifying the second information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device as taught by Taniguchi to the invention of Motegi because this enhances the secrecy function of printed information in a shared printer, and further allows for designating plural people to obtain an a identical document from optional printers in network [col. 2, lines 1 - 8 of Taniguchi].

7. Motegi as modified by Taniguchi does not specifically teach identification information for identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred.

8. However, Wiegley teaches secure printing [col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 20] and notifying attribute information [session identifier; col. 4, lines 30 – 47] for job data and identification information [printer 10 sends its public key as part of an authenticity certificate; col. 4, lines 30 – 46] for identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred [other key in the pair, the private key, is kept secret and known only to the printer; col. 4, lines 30 – 46] from a first information processor to a second information processor [printer 10 sends an encryption public key and session identifier 38a to computer 12 in step 106; col. 4, lines 30 – 46].

9. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of providing identification information for identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred as taught by Wiegley to the invention of Motegi as modified because provides an encryption security system for printer client/printer communications [col. 1, lines 60 – 65 of Wiegley].

10. As to claim 2, Motegi as modified teaches the first information processor further comprises notifying unit which, when said job issuing means transfers the job data to said output device, notifies a job issue to a user permitted to execute outputting of the print data [col. 8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi].

11. As to claim 3, Motegi as modified the second information processor further comprises an informing unit which, when said notifying unit notifies the job issue, informs the user of the notification [col. 8, lines 54 – 67 of Taniguchi], and the sending unit sends the attribute information for the job data when a predetermined operation is performed [col. 3, lines 28 – 39 of Motegi].

12. As to claim 4, Motegi as modified teaches a notifying unit adapted to the same information as notified by said notifying unit of the first information processor to another user to be given permission to output the print data [users 2 and 3; col. 8, lines 37 – 52 of Taniguchi]; and an adding unit adapted to add a user to be given permission to output to attributes with respect to said output device [col. 8, lines 37 – 67 of Taniguchi].

13. As to claim 5, Motegi as modified [col. 6, lines 49 – 67 of Taniguchi] teaches the attribute information issued by said job issuing unit of said first information processor contains an upper-limit number [memory capacity, Step S603] of output times of job data, and said output device further comprises an erasing unit adapted to erase a job when the upper-limit number of output times of the job is reached [generated print jobs are made invalid, Step S604].

14. As to claim 6, Motegi as modified teaches the attribute information issued by said job issuing unit of said first information processor contains information concerning the validity period of job data [Effective Term; col. 4, lines 10 – 17 of Taniguchi], and said output device further comprises an erasing unit adapted to erase job data whose validity period has expired [col. 10, lines 9 – 18 of Taniguchi].

15. As to claim 7, this is a method claim that corresponds to system claim 1; note the rejection to claim 1 above, which also meets this method claim.

16. As to claim 9, this is rejected for similar reasons as claim 1 above. As to the additional limitations, Motegi as modified teaches converting information to be output [col. 11, lines 13 – 27 of Taniguchi], transferred from high-order processing, into data suited to an output device, and transferring to said output device job data [col. 3, lines 38 – 57 of Motegi].

17. As to claim 10, this is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9 above.

18. As to claim 12, Motegi as modified teaches a printing apparatus [col. 2, lines 49 – 56 of Motegi] connected to a network, comprising:

a first receiving unit adapted to receive from a first client terminal [host computer 113 of Motegi] on the network, print data and authentication information for executing printing of the print data [print server 111 receives data for example, a user password, a job number and an image data, from the host computer 113; col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of Motegi];

a storage unit adapted to store the received print data [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of Motegi];

a second receiving unit adapted to receive, from a second client terminal on said network authentication information [print job management program informs that the ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3...This notification may be made by another method such as e-mail; col. 8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi] which the first client terminal has sent identification information for identifying the printing apparatus [col. 4, lines 30 – 46 of Wiegley], the second client terminal sending the authentication information to the printing apparatus identified by the identifying information [col. 4, lines 47 – 58 of Wiegley]; and

a printing unit adapted to print, when the authentication information received by said second receiving unit corresponds to the authentication information received by said first receiving unit, the print data stored in the storage unit [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of Motegi] which corresponds to the authentication information [step S5 verifies that the inputted job number and password match that provided by the host computer....If the

response to the inquiry in step S5 is affirmative, the process proceeds to step S6, where the selected printer prints the image data; col. 4, lines 1 – 22 of Motegi].

19. As to claim 13, Motegi as modified teaches a print job managing unit adapted to store and manage the authentication information for the received print data [print job management program; col. 4, lines 21 – 43 of Taniguchi], wherein the first receiving unit further receives information for specifying said second client terminal [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of Motegi], wherein said print job managing unit means stores and manages information for specifying said second client terminal together with the authentication information [col. 8, lines 37 – 52 of Taniguchi], and said printing unit means performs printing when a client as a transmission source of authentication information received by said second receiving unit is said second client terminal stored and managed by said print job managing unit [col. 4, lines 1 – 22 of Motegi and col. 9, lines 20 – 35 of Taniguchi].

20. As to claim 14, Motegi as modified teaches said print job managing unit stores information for specifying a plurality of second client terminals for one print data [print job management program informs that the ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3; col. 8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi].

21. As to claim 15, Motegi as modified teaches a receiving unit adapted to receive authentication information from all second client terminals for one print job [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of Motegi], and erasing information concerning the print job from said storage unit when printing is performed [the print job is completed, then the print job J1 is deleted from the auxiliary memory D1 of the computer C1; col. 9, lines 34 – 50 of Taniguchi].

22. As to claim 16, this is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 12; note the rejection to claim 12 above, which also meets this method claim. Additionally,

Motegi teaches storing received print data into a predetermined memory [col. 1, line 57 – col. 2, line 3].

23. As to claims 17 - 19, these are method claims that correspond to apparatus claims 13 - 15; note the rejections to claims 13 - 15 above, which also meet these method claims.

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments filed 10/19/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to the Non-Final Office Action dated 07/22/2005, applicant argues that the applied art, alone or in any permissible combination is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 [p. 16, lines 8 – 15]. In particular, applicant argues:

(1) Motegi does not disclose a printer receiving the unique job ID from the second processor, but rather, the user has to input the unique code manually at the printer [p. 17, lines 6 – 9]; and

(2) the prior art, alone or in combination does not disclose or suggest an output device receiving, from a second information processor, attribute information which was sent to the second information processor by a first information processor, and the output device outputting the print data if the attribute information received from the second information processor matches the attribute information received by the output device from the first information processor.

In response to argument (1), examiner respectfully disagrees because Motegi teaches that the user need not be physically present, but send control commands to the selected printer 107, identifying the password and job number, as if the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad [col. 3, lines 28 – 39]. In this instance the user computer corresponds to the second processor and the printer receives the password and job number from the second processor.

As to argument (2), examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that Motegi teaches that the second processor send unique job ID to the printer [see response to

argument (1)] and the output device outputting the print data if the attribute information received from the second information processor matches the attribute information received by the output device from the first information processor [col. 4, lines 1 – 22]. Motegi does not specifically teach that the first processor send unique job ID to the second processor. In order for the second processor to send the unique job ID to the printer, the second processor must be notified of the password and job number, but Motegi does not provide further details as to the notifying means. However, Taniguchi teaches a first information processor [computer C1; col. 8, lines 37 – 52] notifying the second information processor [computers C2 and C3; col. 8, lines 64 – 67] of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device [print job management program informs that the ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3...This notification may be made by another method such as e-mail; col. 8, lines 57 – 67]. Taniguchi teaches a first processor notifying a second processor of print information by email and this allows the user at the second processor to send to print information to printer. Therefore, Taniguchi teaches the notifying means that was not taught in Motegi and the combination of the recited prior art teaches all the features as claimed.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,385,728 to DeBry teaches method for a client system to pass authorization received from a file source to a printer to retrieve and print a file directly from the file source.

U.S. Patent No. 5,970,218 to Mullin et al. teaches a networked system having a plurality of workstations and a peripheral device for private printing.

26. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

CONTACT INFORMATION

27. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on 571-272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Li B. Zhen
Examiner
Art Unit 2194

lbz

WILLIAM THOMSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER